

A CHOICE THAT WILL CHART THE FATE OF THE GALAXY!

STAR WARS

MARVEL 35

**SOULE
MUSABEKOV
ROSENBERG**



IN THE CLUTCHES OF DR. CUATA

After the damage Luke's lightsaber sustained at the hands of the Killdroids in No-Space, Luke was in need of a new Jedi weapon.

He and Artoo traveled to the Imperial-occupied planet of Christophsis in search of kyber and met up with the mysterious Gretta, who has her own personal vendetta against the Empire.

She agreed to help Luke on his quest, but soon afterward, a huge creature attacked them. Luckily, the kyber expert they were searching for arrived just in time, but he wants Luke's lightsaber. . . .

CHARLES SOULE
Writer

MADIBEK MUSABEKOV
Artist

RACHELLE ROSENBERG
Colorist

VC's CLAYTON COWLES
Letterer

STEPHEN SEGOVIA & RACHELLE ROSENBERG
Cover Artists

JOHN TYLER CHRISTOPHER (Action Figure); CHRIS SPROUSE, KARL STORY & NEERAJ MENON (Return of the Jedi 40th Anniversary) PHIL JIMENEZ & RACHELLE ROSENBERG (Pride); PHIL NOTO
Variant Cover Artists

MIKEY J. BASSO
Assistant Editor

DANNY KHAZEM
Associate Editor

MARK PANICCIA
Editor

C.B. CEBULSKI
Editor in Chief

For Lucasfilm:

Senior Editor ROBERT SIMPSON

Creative Director MICHAEL SIGLAIN

Art Director TROY ALDERS

Lucasfilm Story Group MATT MARTIN, PABLO HIDALGO & EMILY SHKOUKANI

Creative Art Manager PHIL SZOSTAK



Christophsis.



YOU...WANT
ME TO GIVE YOU MY
LIGHTSABER?

WHY?

YEAH, YOU'RE
RIGHT. I GUESS
I WAS A LITTLE
BLUNT.

I'LL TELL
HIM, I'LL TELL
HIM.



MY FRIENDS
HERE THINK
YOU NEED
MY HELP.



LUKE, MEET DR. CUATA. HE'S WHO I BROUGHT YOU OUT HERE TO MEET.

CUATA, THIS IS LUKE SKYWALKER. YOU'RE RIGHT...HE DOES NEED YOUR HELP.

IS HE...ALL RIGHT, GREZZA? IT SEEMS LIKE HE THINKS THOSE CRYSTALS ARE TALKING TO HIM.

HE--

DON'T WHISPER AROUND A PANTORAN, BOY! OUR HEARING IS EXCEPTIONAL.

YOU'RE FORCE-SENSITIVE, MAYBE EVEN A JEDI--I CAN TELL. DO PEOPLE ASK YOU IF YOU ARE ALL RIGHT EVERY TIME YOU SENSE THINGS THEY CAN'T?

THAT'S...A VERY GOOD POINT.

YOU CAN TRUST HIM, LUKE. I'VE KNOWN HIM FOR YEARS.

WORKING IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO KYBER FOR TOO LONG CAN...AFFECT SOME PEOPLE. BUT CUATA'S NOT DANGEROUS. HE'S JUST BEEN OUT HERE A LONG TIME.

NO ONE KNOWS MORE ABOUT THE CRYSTALS THAN HE DOES. IF YOU WANT HELP, I CAN'T THINK OF ANYWHERE BETTER.

HA! THAT'S A GOOD ONE.

I APOLOGIZE FOR WHAT I SAID BEFORE.

I DO NEED YOUR HELP, AND I'D BE GRATEFUL FOR ANYTHING YOU COULD DO. MY LIGHTSABER'S BEEN HAVING PROBLEMS. I THINK THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE--



UH-HUH--LET'S JUST GET A LOOK AT YOU.

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WITH THE CRYSTAL. YES, I KNOW.

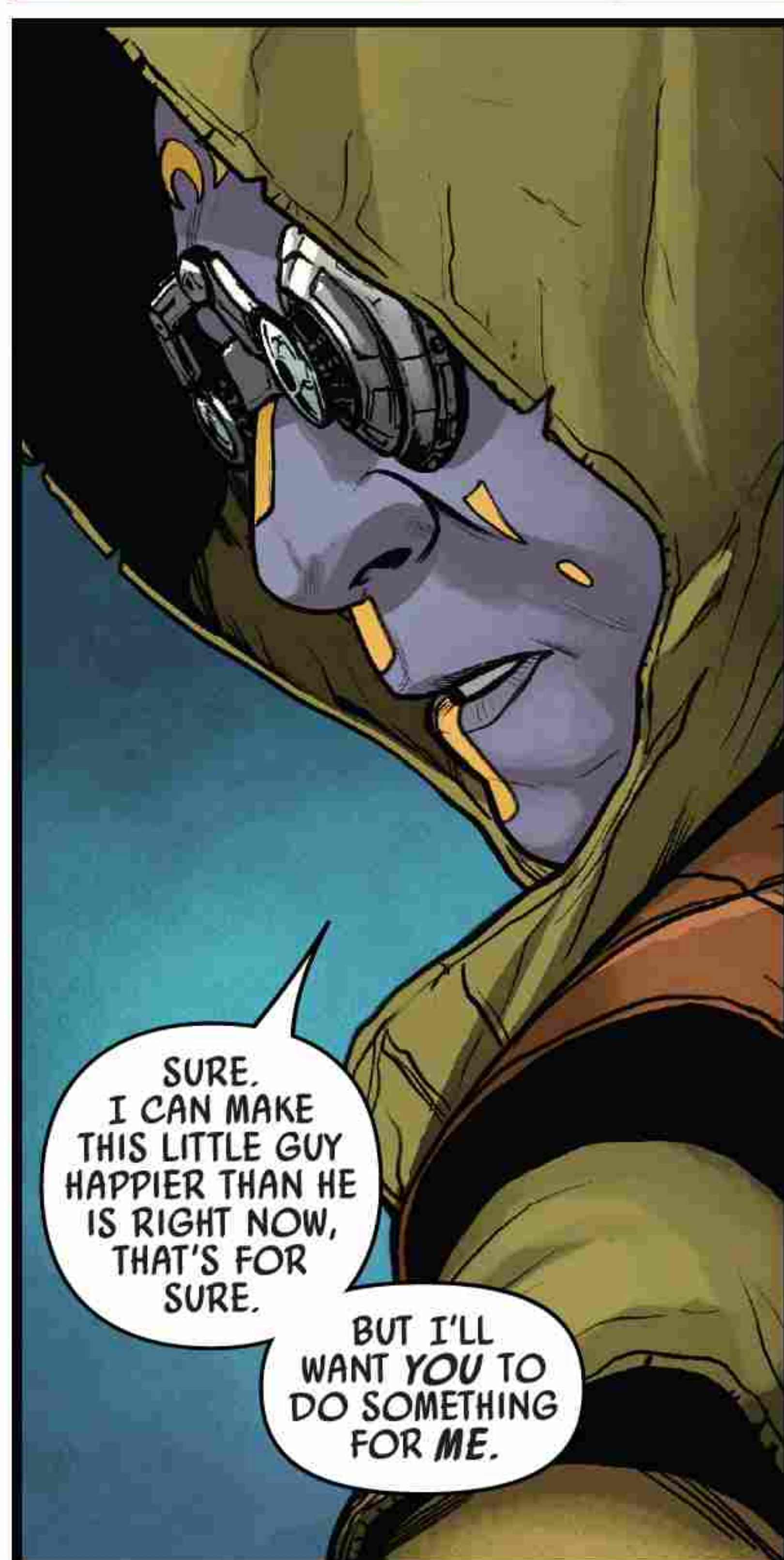
FWP

XCHX

YEAH, LIKE I THOUGHT. THERE'S YOUR PROBLEM. YOUR LITTLE BUDDY HERE'S DANG NEAR **BROKEN** IN HALF!

IT'S DOING ITS BEST FOR YOU, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU EXPECT. THEY'RE **MINERALS**, NOT MIRACLE WORKERS.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN DO?



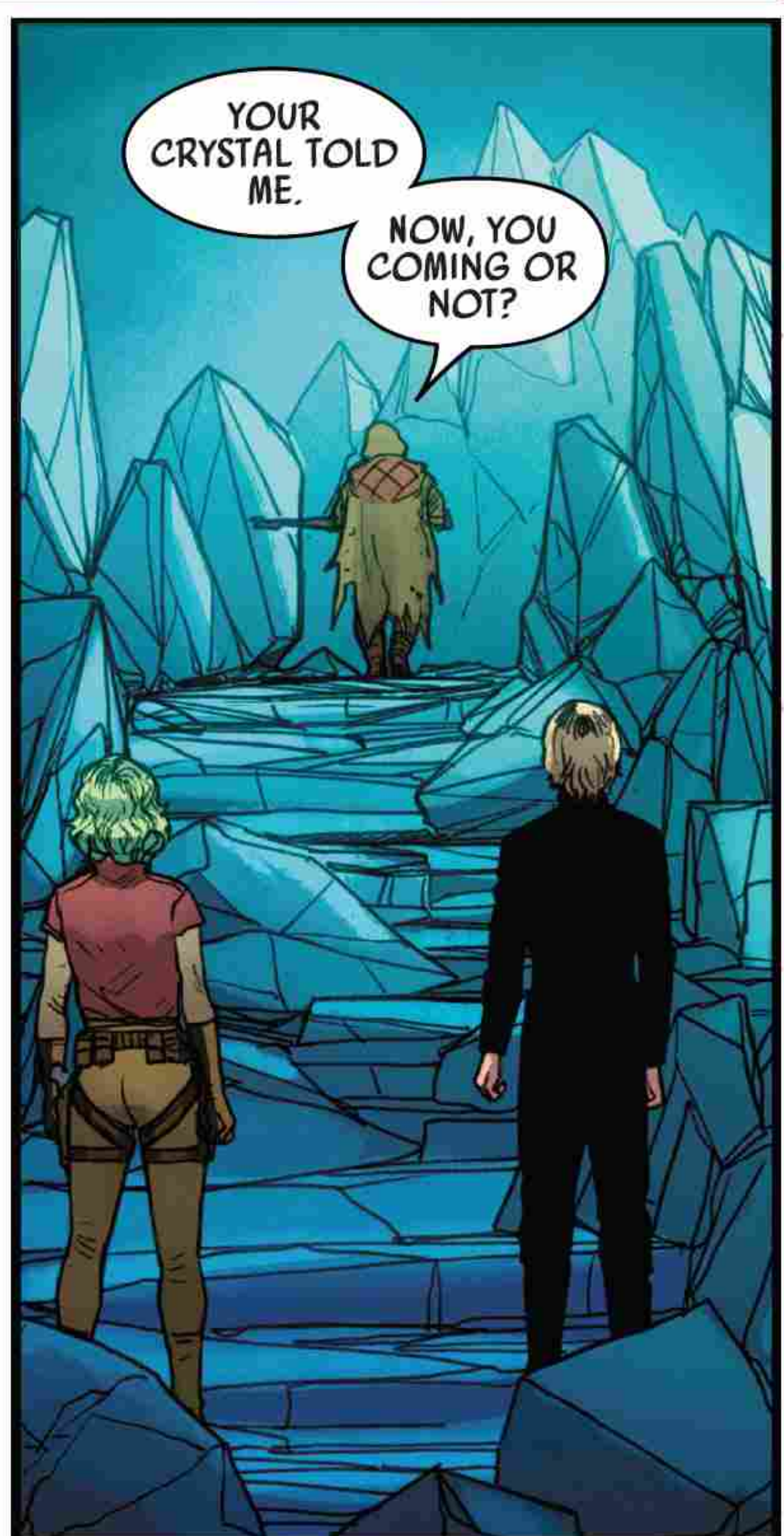
SURE. I CAN MAKE THIS LITTLE GUY HAPPIER THAN HE IS RIGHT NOW, THAT'S FOR SURE.

BUT I'LL WANT **YOU** TO DO SOMETHING FOR **ME**.



IT'S NOTHING A **JEDI** SHOULD HAVE TROUBLE WITH. EVEN IF YOU **ARE** FINDING YOUR PATH TO THE FORCE TO BE A LITTLE WIBBLY-WOBBLY RIGHT NOW.

HOW... HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?



YOUR CRYSTAL TOLD ME.

NOW, YOU COMING OR NOT?



YOUR LIGHTSABER IS KINDA WEIRD. THE HILT AND THE CRYSTAL MAKE ME THINK IT WAS ORIGINALLY AN OLD TEMPLE GUARD SABER, BUT THESE INNARDS... DID YOU **BUILD** THIS, LUKE?

NO. I FOUND IT IN A RUINED JEDI TEMPLE.

BUT I'VE WORKED ON IT SOME. SO HAS MY R2 UNIT.



YOU CAN'T JUST **FIDDLE AROUND** WITH LIGHTSABERS! IT'S DANGEROUS! INVERT YOUR **EMITTER MATRIX**-- EASY MISTAKE TO MAKE--AND **BOOM**, YOU GOT YOURSELF A BOMB.

FOR A JEDI, YOU DON'T SEEM TO KNOW VERY MUCH.

LIGHTSABER **MAINTENANCE** WASN'T PART OF MY TRAINING. I HAD A LOT TO LEARN AND NOT MUCH TIME.



WELL, THEN THANK GOODNESS DR. CUATA IS HERE.

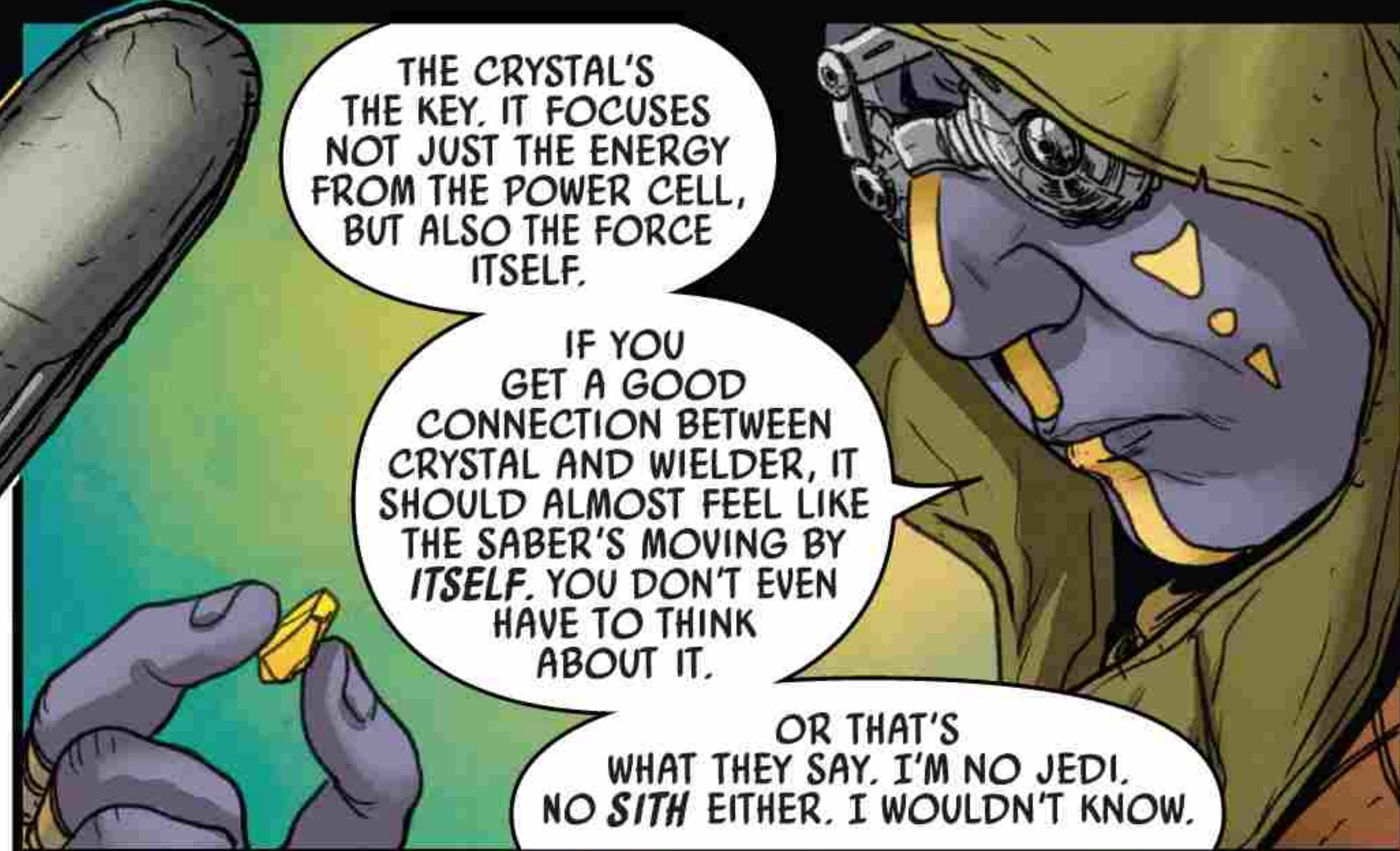
LISTEN UP, SKYWALKER-- CLASS IS IN SESSION.



A LIGHTSABER HAS FIVE MAIN PARTS. THE POWER CELL, THE CASING, THE FOCUSING LENS, THE EMITTER AND, OF COURSE, THE *CRYSTAL*.

THE REST IS JUST WIRING, AN ON/OFF SWITCH AND WHATEVER FANCY EXTRA BITS PEOPLE WANT TO BUILD IN.

ALL IN ALL THOUGH, IT'S A PRETTY SIMPLE DEVICE.



THE CRYSTAL'S THE KEY. IT FOCUSES NOT JUST THE ENERGY FROM THE POWER CELL, BUT ALSO THE FORCE ITSELF.

IF YOU GET A GOOD CONNECTION BETWEEN CRYSTAL AND WIELDER, IT SHOULD ALMOST FEEL LIKE THE SABER'S MOVING BY ITSELF. YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO THINK ABOUT IT.

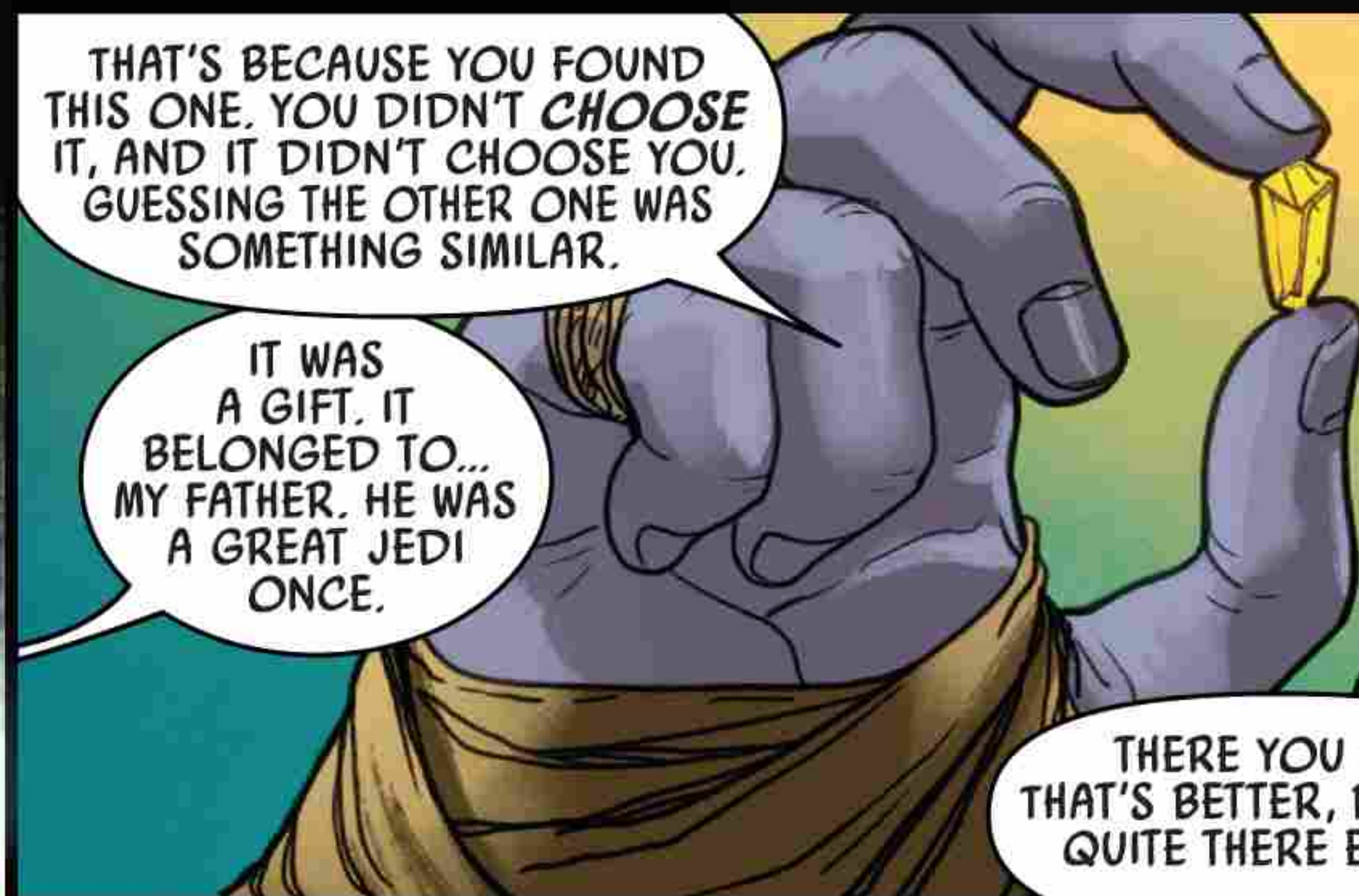
OR THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY. I'M NO JEDI. NO *SITH* EITHER. I WOULDN'T KNOW.

DID YOU EVER FEEL ANYTHING LIKE THAT, LUKE?



IT CAN BE HARD TO KNOW WHAT YOU'RE *NOT* FEELING, GRETTA... I DUNNO.

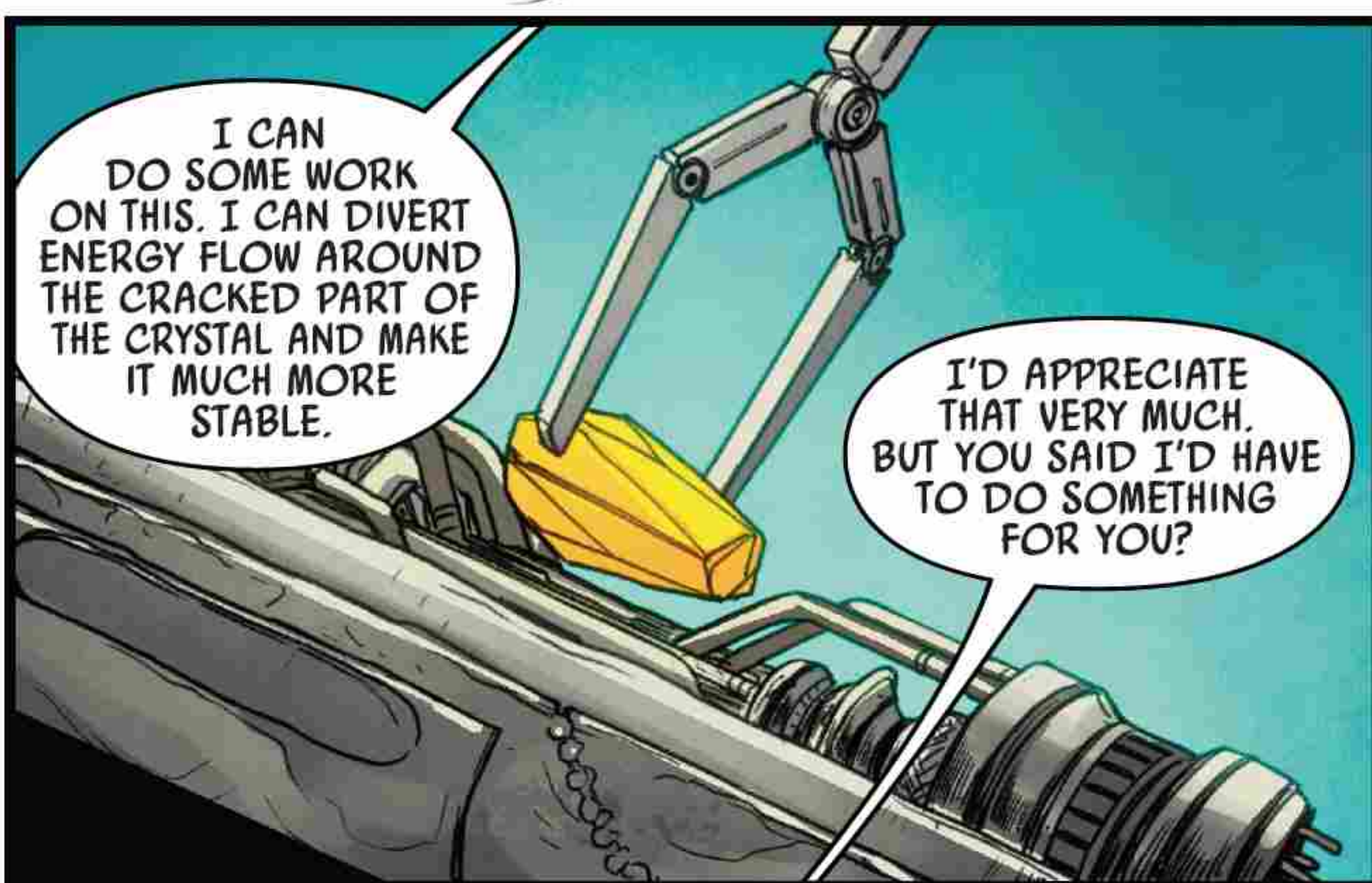
BOTH THE SABERS I'VE OWNED WERE GOOD TOOLS. THIS ONE FEELS DIFFERENT THAN MY LAST ONE, BUT NEITHER IS EXACTLY LIKE WHAT CUATA'S DESCRIBING.



THAT'S BECAUSE YOU FOUND THIS ONE. YOU DIDN'T *CHOOSE* IT, AND IT DIDN'T CHOOSE YOU. GUESSING THE OTHER ONE WAS SOMETHING SIMILAR.

IT WAS A GIFT. IT BELONGED TO... MY FATHER. HE WAS A GREAT JEDI ONCE.

THERE YOU GO. THAT'S BETTER, BUT NOT QUITE THERE EITHER.



I CAN DO SOME WORK ON THIS. I CAN DIVERT ENERGY FLOW AROUND THE CRACKED PART OF THE CRYSTAL AND MAKE IT MUCH MORE STABLE.

I'D APPRECIATE THAT VERY MUCH. BUT YOU SAID I'D HAVE TO DO SOMETHING FOR YOU?

CORRECT. I'D LIKE YOU TO SPEND A LITTLE TIME...





...WITH THIS.

IT'S RED.



SO IT IS-- BUT THERE'S SUPPOSEDLY A WAY TO PULL THE DARK SIDE OUT OF RED CRYSTALS. I'VE NEVER SEEN IT DONE, AND IT REQUIRES THE FORCE.

THAT'S WHY I WANT YOU TO DO IT. IT'LL BE FASCINATING TO OBSERVE. A HUGE BOON TO MY RESEARCH.

I WANT TO HELP, BUT I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF THAT. I WOULDN'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN.



I WOULD.



MY PEOPLE HAD A RITUAL FOR CLEANSING CRYSTAL. THE FALLANASSI WOULD PERFORM IT AS A SERVICE IN THE DAYS AFTER THE FALL OF THE SITH.

THERE WERE MANY RED CRYSTALS AT THAT TIME, AND THE JEDI ORDER ENGAGED MY ANCESTORS TO HEAL AS MANY AS THEY COULD.

I'VE NEVER DONE IT--I CAN'T-- BUT THE LORE WAS PASSED DOWN.

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?

IN ORDER TO TURN RED, ORDINARY KYBER CRYSTALS MUST BE **BLED**.

A DARK SIDE PRACTITIONER POURS THEIR RAGE AND PAIN AND FEAR THROUGH THE CRYSTAL, LEAVING IT VIBRATING IN SCARLET AGONY.

LIKE A FEEDBACK LOOP. I SEE.

TO HEAL IT, YOU DO THE OPPOSITE-- USE THE LIGHT SIDE AND YOUR OWN JOY AND HOPE TO CREATE RESONANCE TO OFFSET THE PAIN CREATED BY THE BLEEDING.

IT'S NOT A **BATTLE**. IT'S A SOOTHING. A CALMING.

A HEALING.

IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT. PEOPLE CAME OUT OF THE PROCESS CHANGED.

TO HEAL THE CRYSTAL, YOU MUST CONNECT DEEPLY WITH THE DARK SIDE USER WHOSE SUFFERING CREATED IT.

SOUNDS... PAINFUL. I'VE NEVER DONE ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE...BUT I'LL TRY.

EXCELLENT! I BELIEVE IN YOU.

ALL RIGHT.

HERE... WE...





I MEDITATED
ON A RED
KYBER CRYSTAL.
I WAS TRYING
TO HEAL IT.

BUT
I WASN'T
EXPECTING
ANYTHING LIKE
THIS. I WAS
TOLD--

YOU WERE
TOLD YOU WOULD
FIND PAIN AND RAGE
AND FEAR AND
SUFFERING AND
SORROW?

NOT IN
MY HALL, YOUNG
MASTER.

YOU CAME
HERE TO HEAL ME--
BUT WHAT IF I DO
NOT WANT TO BE
HEALED? I AM NOT
SICK, YOUNG
MASTER.

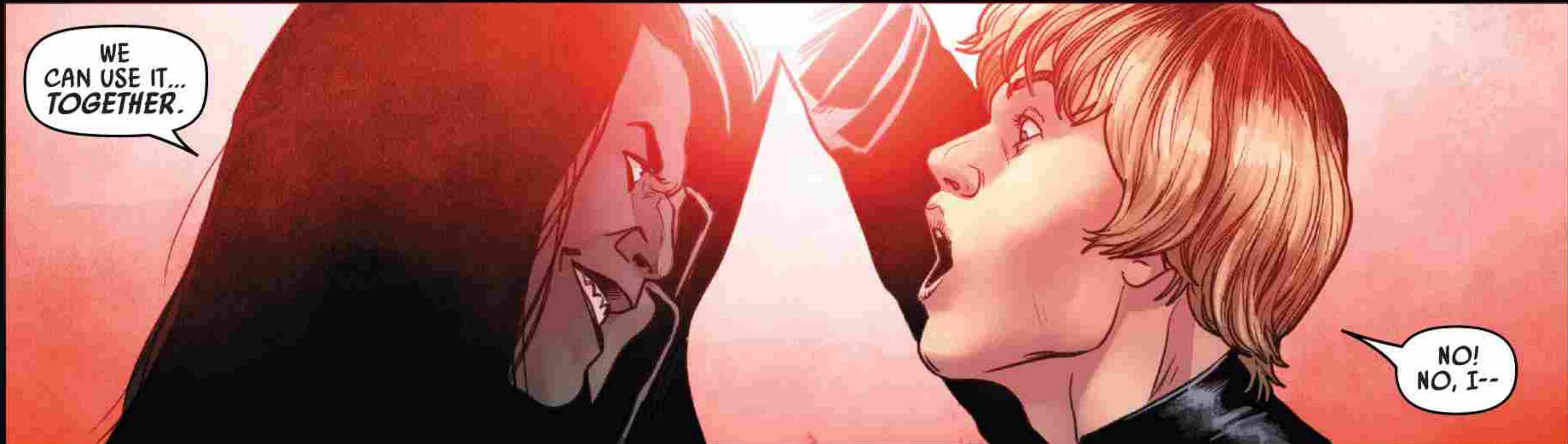
YOUR
MINISTRATIONS
WOULD, TO ME,
BE A FORM OF
VIOLENCE.



YOU HAVE
EXPERIENCED
VIOLENCE,
I THINK.

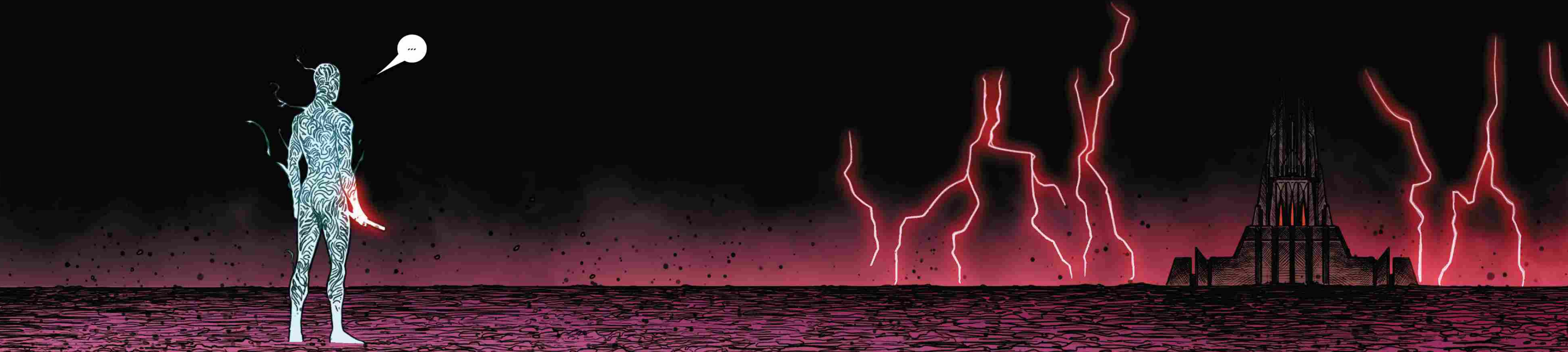
YOU HAVE
EXPERIENCED
PAIN.

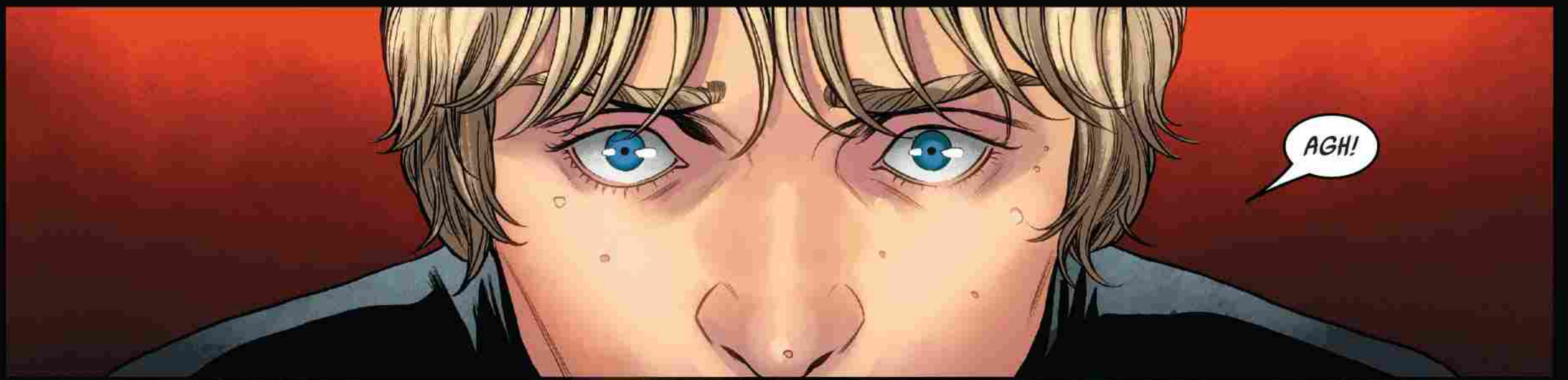
WHAT--



WE
CAN USE IT...
TOGETHER.

NO!
NO, I--





AGH!



LUKE! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WHAT HAPPENED?

YES! EXACTLY!

WHAT HAPPENED?



TELL ME WHAT YOU SAW!

I THINK I SAW...
...MY... FATHER?



THE GREAT JEDI?

WHAT WOULD A GREAT JEDI BE DOING INSIDE A RED KYBER CRYSTAL?

LEAVE HIM BE, CUATA. LOOK AT HIM--WHATEVER HAPPENED WAS CLEARLY TRAUMATIC.

HE COULDN'T HEAL THE CRYSTAL, BUT HE TRIED HIS *BEST*. HE TOOK A *HUGE* RISK FOR YOU. YOU NEED TO FULFILL YOUR END OF THE BARGAIN.

I SUPPOSE. BUT WE'RE NOT QUITE DONE YET.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?



DON'T WORRY, BOY. YOU'LL FIND YOUR NEXT TASK TO BE MUCH LESS...**TRAUMATIC**.

I'LL GET TO WORK ON YOUR SABER RIGHT NOW. IN THE MEANTIME, SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH THIS.

A **CLEAR** CRYSTAL? I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE OF THESE BEFORE. DID IT COME FROM A JEDI'S LIGHTSABER?



NO. IT'S RAW, A YOUNG LITTLE THING. ONLY A MILLION OR SO YEARS OLD.

KINDA CHATTY.

WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO WITH IT?



JUST... CONNECT WITH IT. SEE WHAT HAPPENS!

WHAT WILL I SEE?

YOU WILL SEE EITHER WHAT IT WISHES TO SHOW YOU...

...OR WHATEVER YOU BRING WITH YOU.



FINE. IT CAN'T BE WORSE THAN THE RED ONE.

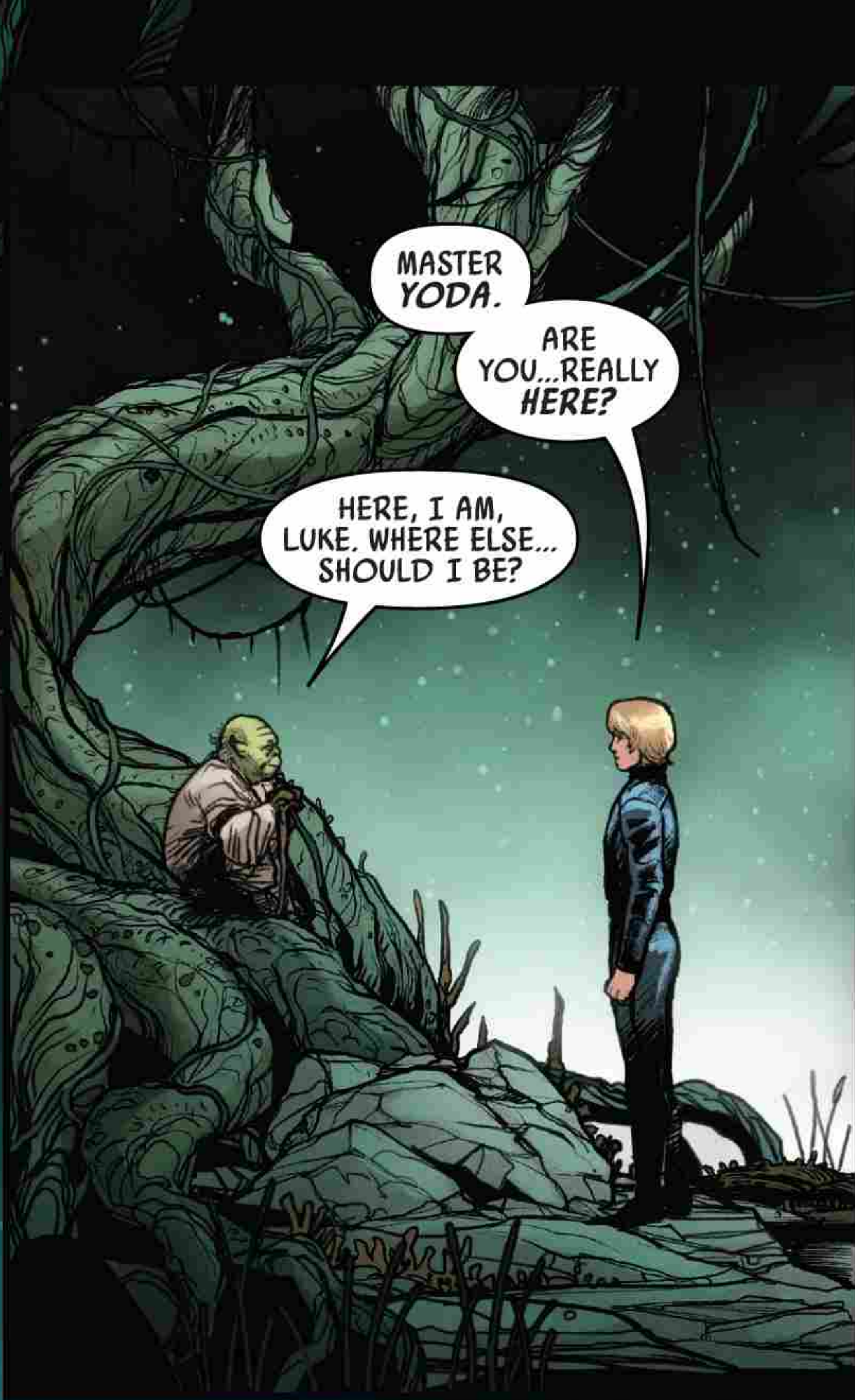
BUT THE FORCE IS FEELING A LITTLE WOBBLY AGAIN--NOT SURE I'LL BE ABLE TO DO MUCH.

DON'T WORRY, LUKE. MY LITTLE FRIENDS WILL KEEP ME UPDATED ON WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE FORCE.

IF IT STARTS TO RECEDE, WE'LL PULL YOU RIGHT OUT.



HERE WE GO AGAIN.



MASTER
YODA.

ARE
YOU...REALLY
HERE?

HERE, I AM,
LUKE. WHERE ELSE...
SHOULD I BE?



THIS ISN'T REAL.
NONE OF THIS
IS REAL.

BUT I'M
GOING TO
ASK ANOTHER
QUESTION
ANYWAY.

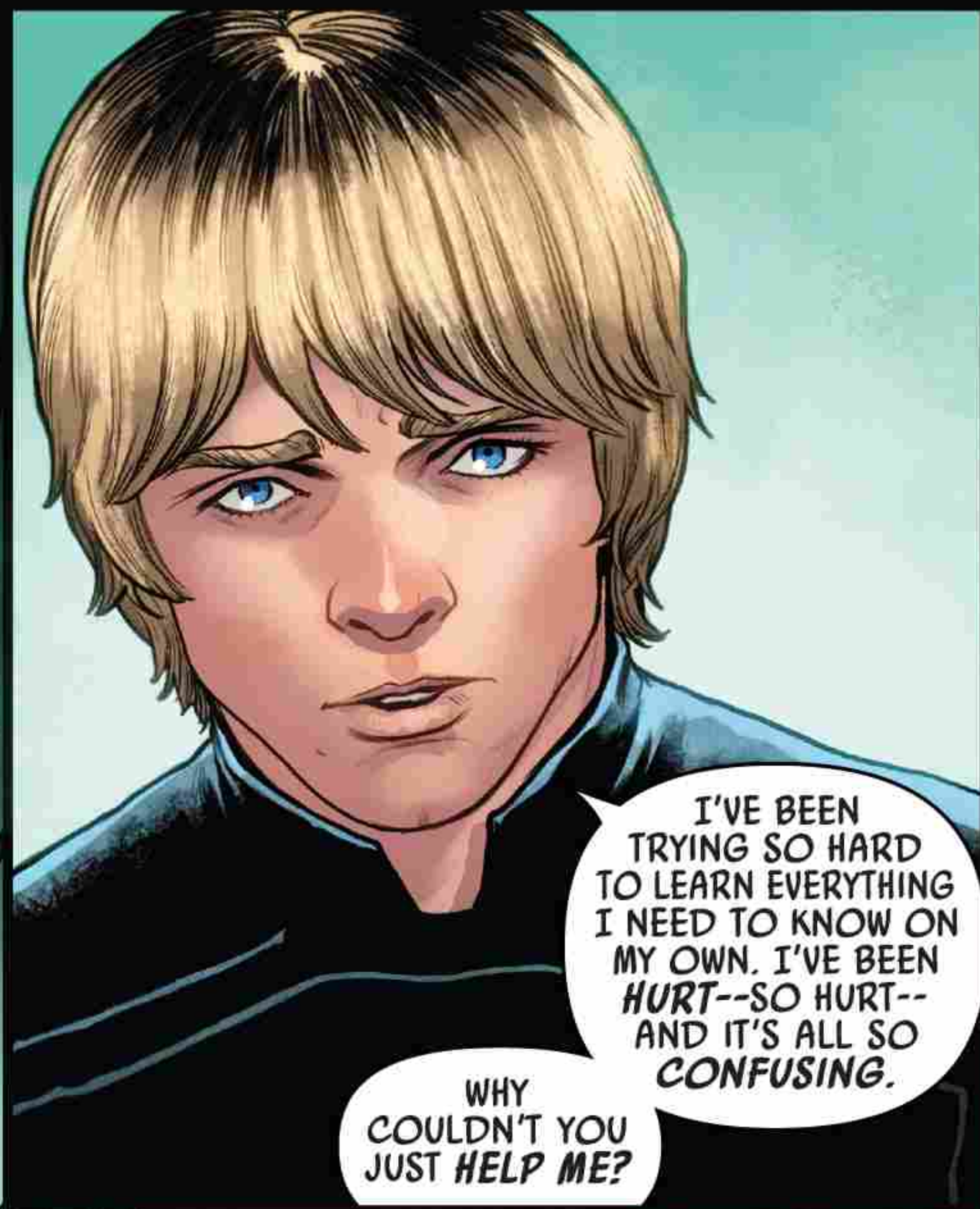


WHERE
HAVE YOU
BEEN?



I REACHED
OUT TO YOU WITH
THE FORCE SO
MANY TIMES.

YOU NEVER
ANSWERED.



I'VE BEEN
TRYING SO HARD
TO LEARN EVERYTHING
I NEED TO KNOW ON
MY OWN. I'VE BEEN
HURT--SO HURT--
AND IT'S ALL SO
CONFUSING.

WHY
COULDN'T YOU
JUST **HELP ME?**



ALL JEDI
WALK THEIR OWN
PATH.

ALL JEDI
MUST WALK THEIR
OWN PATH.

KNOW THIS,
YOU DO--OR
RETURNED TO ME,
YOU WOULD HAVE.
YOU DID NOT WISH TO
SPEAK TO ME, LUKE.
AND SO YOU
DID NOT.



A GREAT
DECISION LIES
BEFORE YOU. IT
HAS NOTHING TO DO
WITH THE FORCE
OR BEING
A JEDI.

ABOUT
YOURSELF,
THIS DECISION
WILL BE.



UNTIL YOU
MAKE IT, A JEDI
YOU CANNOT
BE.



YOU ARE PAYING ATTENTION TO THE FORCE, RIGHT? THE CRYSTALS ARE TALKING TO YOU?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO LUKE IF THE FORCE GETS SHAKY WHILE HIS MIND IS IN THAT CRYSTAL.

YES, YES, GRETTA.

I'M LISTENING TO EVERYTHING MY FRIENDS ARE SAYING. EVERY LAST WORD!



THIS IS *HOPELESS*. YOU SAY SO MUCH, BUT YOU NEVER TELL ME ANYTHING.

I DON'T HAVE *TIME* FOR THIS. I'LL LEARN WHAT I NEED TO FROM THE JEDI TEXT I FOUND.

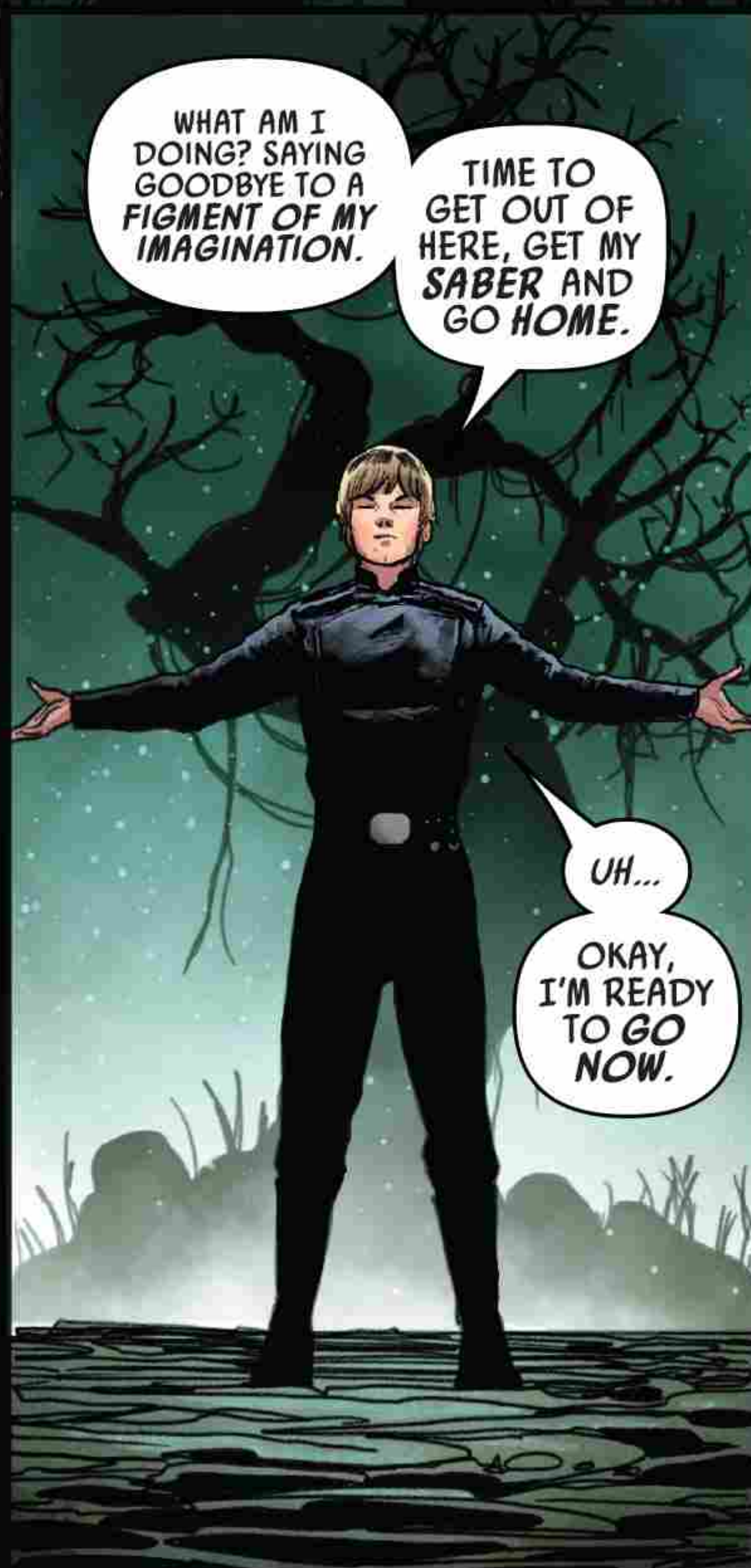
FOUND ONE OF THE SACRED JEDI TEXTS, YOU DID? WELL DONE, MY STUDENT.



I SURE DID. AND I DID IT WITHOUT YOUR HELP. I'LL BE FINE. I APPRECIATE EVERYTHING YOU'VE TAUGHT ME, BUT I'M GOING TO LEAVE NOW.

GOODBYE, MASTER YODA.

AS YOU WISH, LUKE.



WHAT AM I DOING? SAYING GOODBYE TO A FIGMENT OF MY IMAGINATION.

TIME TO GET OUT OF HERE, GET MY *SABER* AND GO HOME.

UH...

OKAY, I'M READY TO GO NOW.



LEAVE, YOU SAID YOU WOULD. YET HERE YOU REMAIN.

PERHAPS YOUR JEDI TEXT INCLUDES A CHAPTER ABOUT *GRACEFUL EXITS*.

I'M TRYING.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WRONG!



LUKE!

OH NO.



I'M NOT SURE HE'S BREATHING.

YOU SAID YOU WERE LISTENING, CUATA!

I WAS. I SAID I WAS, AND I WAS.

THE CRYSTALS TOLD ME THE FORCE WAS RECEDING. THEY TOLD ME LOUD AND CLEAR.



BUT I WANTED TO SEE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN.



THE FORCE...IT'S PULLED BACK FROM ME! IT'S BEEN DOING THIS LATELY-- I DON'T KNOW WHERE IT GOES.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!

OH, LUKE.



WHEN NIGHT IT IS... IS THE SUN GONE?

I MEAN... OF COURSE IT'S NOT.

OF COURSE. OBVIOUS, IT IS.

GOODBYE, MY APPRENTICE.



HNH.

THOUGHTS,
HAVE YOU?

STILL, AFTER
ALL HE HAS LEARNED, HE
IS NOT READY.

YES, BUT
LEARNED MUCH,
HE HAS. CAME HERE,
HE DID--EVEN IF
UNDERSTAND WHAT
HE WAS DOING,
HE DID NOT.

WHEN
THE TIME
COMES...



...READY,
HE WILL
BE.





"IN TIME, YES. THE BIGGEST BATTLES ARE YET TO COME."

"BUT BEFORE THEN..."

"...I HAVE SOME THINKING TO DO."

To be continued....

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING, GRETTA. THINGS DIDN'T GO THE WAY I EXPECTED... BUT THEY NEVER REALLY DO.

BUT I LEARNED THINGS I'D NEVER HAVE LEARNED OTHERWISE. SO...THANK YOU.

IT WAS MY PLEASURE, LUKE. SERIOUSLY.

NOW THAT I'VE HELPED YOU, I'VE DISCHARGED THE DEBT I OWED MY FAMILY. I CAN GO ANYWHERE I WANT. LEAVE THIS PLANET BEHIND FOR GOOD.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO? GO BACK TO THE ALLIANCE?

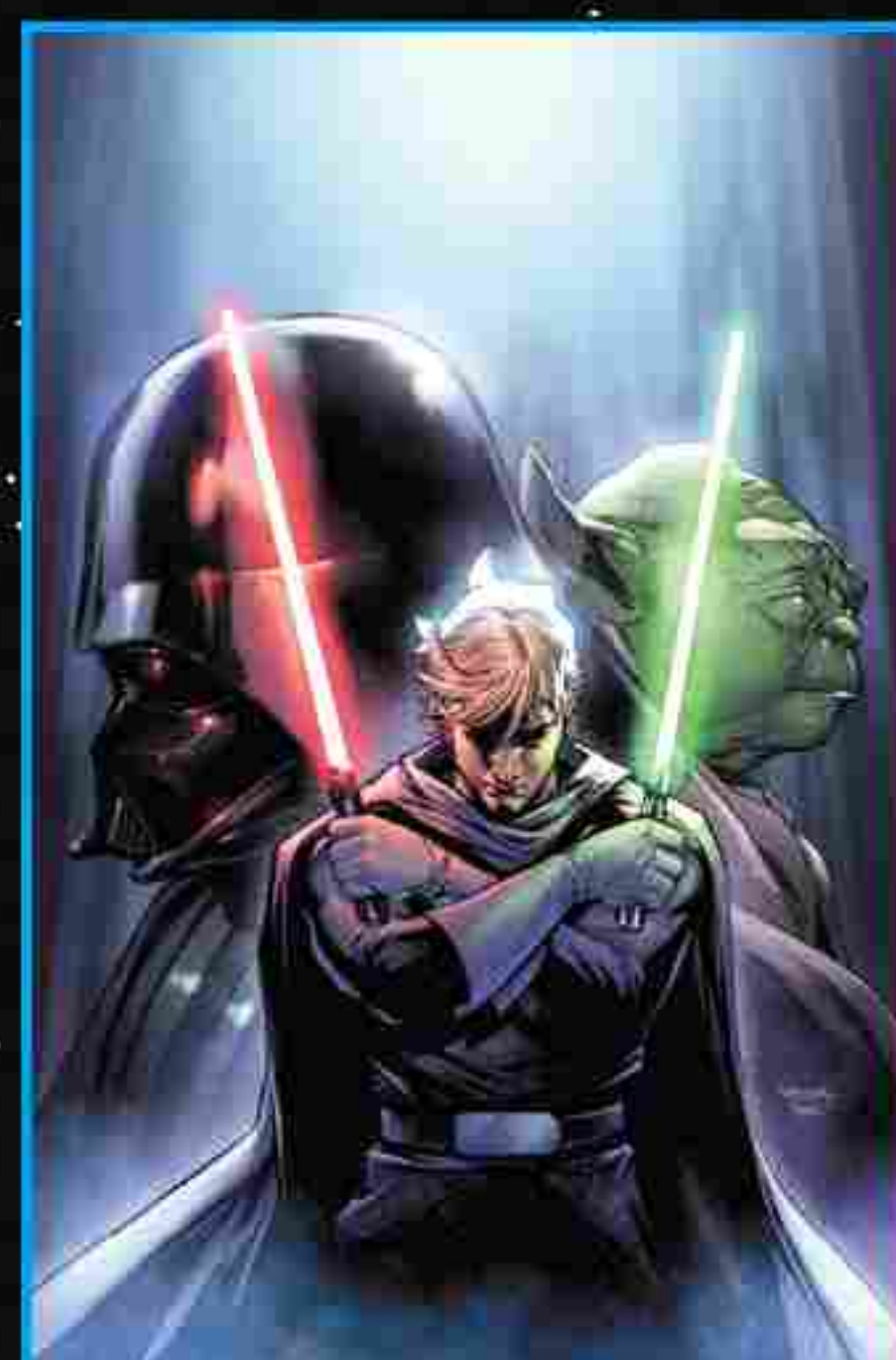


NEXT

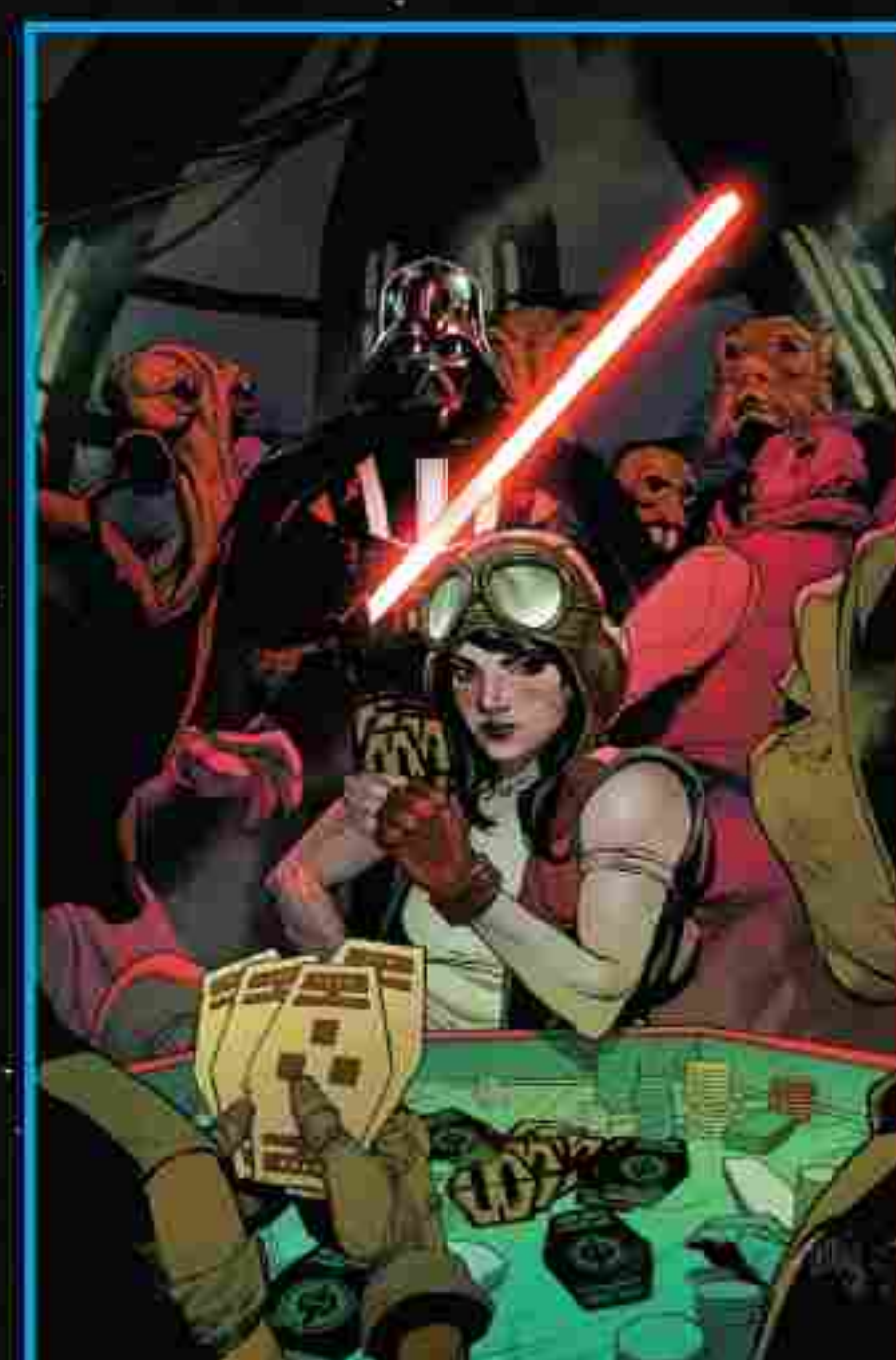
STAR WARS 36



THE SAGA ALSO
CONTINUES IN...



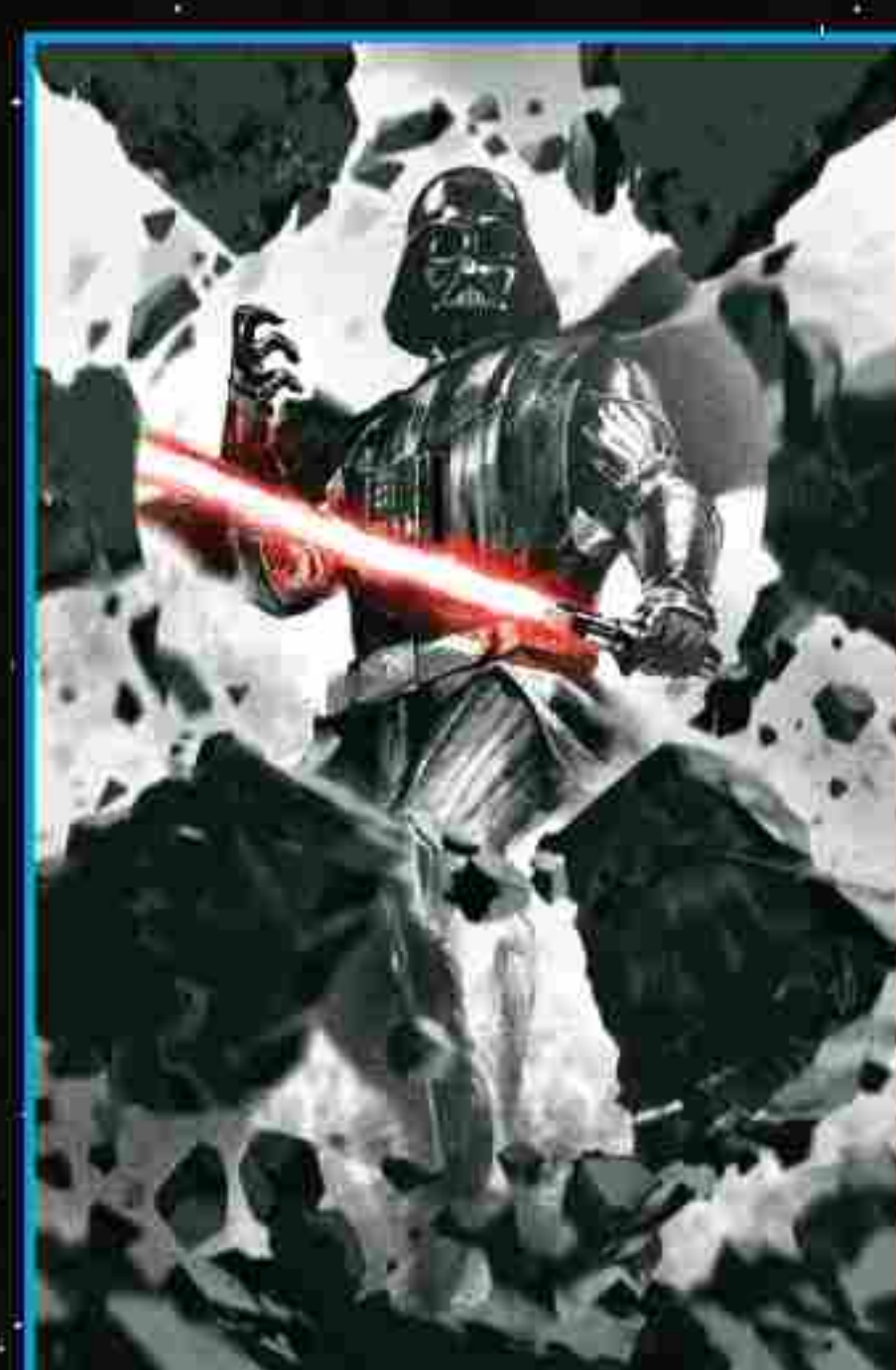
STAR WARS
35



STAR WARS
DARTH VADER 35



STAR WARS
BOUNTY HUNTERS 35



STAR WARS
DARTH VADER - BLACK,
WHITE & RED 3



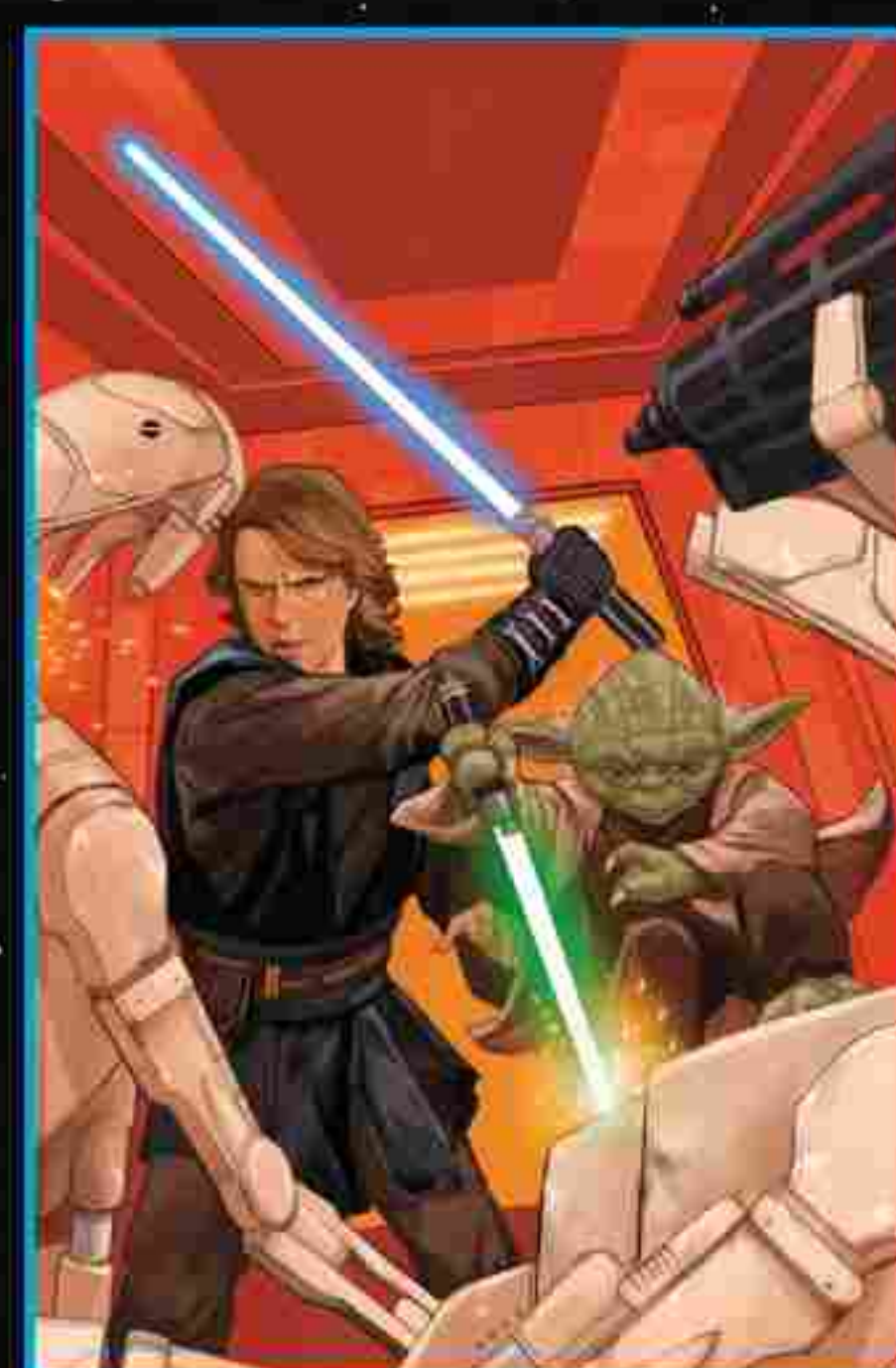
STAR WARS
DOCTOR APHRA 33



STAR WARS
RETURN OF THE JEDI:
EMPIRE 1



STAR WARS
SANA STARROS 5



STAR WARS
YODA 8

STAR WARS and related text and illustrations are trademarks and/or copyrights, in the United States and other countries, of Lucasfilm Ltd. and/or its affiliates. © & TM Lucasfilm Ltd. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Marvel and its logos are TM Marvel Characters, Inc. WWW.MARVEL.COM